

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 /095 W

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R 221629Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6352

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3684

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NL

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COUNCIL: SOME DUTCH UNEASE

1. DURING JULY 21 MEETING CHARGE ASKED DIRGEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS RUTTEN FOR IMPRESSIONS OF RECENT EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS. IN ADDITION TO TOUCHING ON GROUND ALREADY COVERED IN ROME 10440, RUTTEN INDICATED THAT NETHERLANDS PARTICIPANTS HAD COME AWAY WITH MORE THAN A TRACE OF DISSATISFACTION AND EXASPERATION. ACCORDING TO RUTTEN, ESSENCE OF PROBLEM, AS SEEN BY DUTCH FONMIN AND, TO SOMEWHAT LESSER EXTENT ALSO DUTCH PRIMIN, IS LACK OF CLARITY AS TO PURPOSE OF SUCH MEETINGS. SOME PARTICIPANTS, SUCH AS CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, SEE THEM AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FREE EXCHANGES OF
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VIEWS. OTHERS, SUCH AS GISCARD, EVIDENTLY LOOK AT THEM AS VEHICLES FOR DECISION MAKING. IT HAD BEEN A CASE OF NEITHER FISH NOR FOWL. THE DISCUSSION ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, FOR INSTANCE, HAD BEEN LARGELY WITHOUT FOCUS BECAUSE OF

SCANTY STAFF PREPARATIONS AND LACK OF CLEARLY STATED OPTIONS.

2. GISCARD, COMMENTED RUTTEN, HAD SEEMED TO BE QUITE CONTENT TO BE IN SITUATION WHERE HE COULD PRESS FOR DECISIONS ON ISSUES ON WHICH HE WAS PREPARED BUT OTHERS WERE NOT. FRENCH AT TIMES ALSO SEEMED, MISTAKENLY, TO HAVE TAKEN RESULTING SILENCE OF OTHERS AS CONSENT. RUTTEN THOUGHT DUTCH-AND OTHER- MINISTER WOULD HENCE FORTH WANT TO BE A LOT CLEARER AS TO WHAT THEY COULD EXPECT AND WHAT WOULD BE EXPECTED OF THEM. THE RECENT EXPERIENCE AT BRUSSELS HAD GIVEN WEIGHT TO THE LONG-HELD DUTCH VIEW THAT SUMMITS ARE USEFUL ONLY IF WELL-PREPARED.

3. RUTTEN ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE CEREMONIAL TRAPPINGS WHICH ACCOMPANIED EUROPEAN SUMITS SEEMED EXCESSIVE AND SHOULD BE PROPORTIONED TO THE BUSINESS-LIKE CHARACTER OF THESE MEETINGS. HE ADDED HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS UNLIKELY TO BE THE CASE WHEN MINISTERS NEXT MET IN ROME.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A LIGHT PUSH RUTTEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DEN UYL WAS NOT AS "TURNED OFF" BY EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETINGS AS VAN DER STOEL. DEN UYL, IN FACT, RATHER ENJOYED HOBNOBBING WITH HIS EUROPEAN PEERS AND WAS LESS CONCERNED BY THE LACK OF CONCRETE RESULTS. HE SEEMED TO BE LOOKING FORWARD TO HOSTING MEETING WHEN NETHERLANDS TURN CAME. IN ANY CASE, RUTTEN GAVE NO INDICATION THAT GON WOULD TRY TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF THESE MEETINGS BUT WOULD CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON PREPARING THE DOSSIERS MORE CAREFULLY AND GIVING MORE STRUCTURE AND PERTINENCE TO THE SESSIONS.
TANGUY

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